

Democratic People Within a Republic

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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE WITHIN A REPUBLIC

"We are fighting for Democracy" is in the press and on the platform and radio thousands of times these days.

"Democracy" means many things to many people. It is well to keep in mind that the Constitution of the United States guarantees "to every state in this union a *Republican* form of government," not a democracy.

When Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government was formed in the Constitutional Convention, he replied: "A *Republic* if you can keep it."

It is well to keep in mind that in a pure Democracy, a majority rules. In a pure Democracy fifty-one per cent of the people can abolish your church. In a pure Democracy fifty-one per cent of the people can close your schools. In a pure Democracy fifty-one per cent of the people can prohibit a free press, the privilege of petition or the chance to assemble freely.

In our Republic with the Constitution and with the Bill of Rights, anyone may worship as he pleases, even if one hundred thirty million other people don't like it. In our Republic with our Constitution and Bill of Rights, one man can say what he pleases (subject to the laws of slander and libel), even though every other person in the United States is opposed to what he says and writes.

Our Republic is not an unlimited government of the majority. It is a government with some absolute rights for the minority no matter how small that minority is in numbers or influence.

Many well-intentioned people join in the cry for Democracy. Many informed people want a Democracy with qualifications and then again there are those that for selfish purposes, political or otherwise, urge us to abolish the Republic and get a democratic form of government. We must keep in mind that Republicans and Democrats are not far apart in misusing the word, and we must not forget that we can have democratic people in a Republic. We are talking, however, about those that want a demo-

cratic form of government instead of a republican form of government.

Before we desert the Republic for a Democracy, let us ask ourselves whether the leaders seeking such a change have the greatness, the sincerity, the wisdom, and the unselfishness of Washington, Franklin, Madison, and the other leaders in the early days of the Republic.—Wayne C. Townsley in the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society.

IOWA'S FIRST SURVEY

David Dale Owen: Pioneer Geologist of the Middle West. 180 pp. Illustrated. A new book by Prof. Walter Brookfield Hendrickson. Published by the Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, Ind.

One hundred years ago, when the geology and mineral resources of the Mississippi valley were largely unknown, the star of Dr. David Dale Owen rose and for a score of years shown with great brightness above the lower waters of the Wabash at New Harmony, Indiana. Born in New Lanark, Scotland on June 24, 1847, and broadly educated in Europe and America, Doctor Owen became successively the first State Geologist of Indiana, in 1837, Kentucky in 1854 and Arkansas in 1857.

In the meantime, beginning in the mid-summer of 1839, he accepted appointment as field geologist and principal agent of the United States in which he was engaged intermittently until 1852 when the manuscripts, sections and maps he and his associates had prepared were issued from the press of the Federal Government. In them was revealed for the first time in comprehensive form the results of his reconnoissance surveys of a very broad area now comprising large portions of the states of Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

These reports, together with numerous lesser papers presented before scientific societies in this country and abroad, outlined generally the stratigraphy, structure and mineral resources of a vast area that has since become the industrial, agricultural and population heart of America. Although done at all times under great pressure and in

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